

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-01 EB-03 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-14

OES-02 INR-05 /039 R

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, PLOS, CH, KS, US

SUBJECT: GULF/ZAPATA PLANS TO DRILL IN EAST CHINA SEA

1. LATEST DISCUSSION WITH GULF REPS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. IN REGARD TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN SEOUL 1524:

(A) USG HAS CONSISTENTLY ADVISED U.S OIL COMPANIES
AGAINST DRILLING IN DISPUTED WATERS.

WE HAVE ADDITIONALLY POINTED OUT SPECIAL RISKS OF DISPUTED
AREAS OF NORTH ASIAN WATERS. IT IS OUR CURRENT ASSESS-
MENT OF THIS RISK WITH REFERENCE TO THIS PARTICULAR
DRILLING OPERATION WHICH HAS LED US TO ADVISE GULF AND
ZAPATA NOT TO UNDERTAKE IT.

(B) DEGREE OF RISK ATTACHED TO OIL OPERATIONS IN VARIOUS
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AREAS OF NORTH ASIAN SHELF VARIES. WE ARE IN FREQUENT

TOUCH WITH U.S. OIL COMPANIES AND ARE PREPARED AS NECESSARY
TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. ON USG
ADVICE, ANOTHER US OIL COMPANY PLANNING TO DRILL IN A
CERTAIN AREA OF A CONCESSION GRANTED BY ANOTHER EA COUNTRY
RECENTLY DECIDED NOT TO GO AHEAD. FYI: THIS REFERS TO
SUPERIOR OIL PLAN TO DRILL IN ROC CONCESSION AREA AWARDED
TO CLINTON OIL, SOUTH AND WEST OF GULF/ZAPATA SITE. END FYI.

3. RE SEOUL 1722, GULF REP IS, OF COURSE, COMPLETELY
IN ERROR. NO "JOINT APPROACH" IS PLANNED TO ROKG
EMBASSY NOR HAS GULF EVEN DISCUSSED SUCH A COURSE OF
ACTION WITH US. WE HAVE NO LEGAL BASIS TO PROHIBIT
GULF FROM DRILLING IF IT SHOULD CHOOSE TO DO SO.
HOWEVER, WE ARE STRONGLY ADVISING GULF AGAINST DRILLING
IN THE AREA IN QUESTION.

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